



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

Office of the Head of Operations,
Disability Services/Social Care Division,
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22nd November 2022

Deputy David Cullinane,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: david.cullinane@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

PQ: 54638/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of children on a waiting list for an assessment of need, by CHO; the number overdue for completion for each month in the years 2020 and 2021 and to date in 2022, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

The Disability Act (2005) provides for an Assessment of Need (AON) that outlines the health and education needs for people born on or after 1st June 2002 who are suspected of having a disability.

The HSE receives approximately 6,000 applications for these assessments each year.

Since Part 2 of the Disability Act commenced in June 2007, the HSE has endeavoured to meet its legislative obligations under the Act. However, as a consequence of a High Court ruling of December 2009, the effect of which was to open eligibility to all children born after 1st June 2002, the number of children aged five and over, and in addition of school-going age, has risen steadily as a percentage of all applications received. At the end of 2011, the figure stood at 26%, while throughout 2021, this figure averaged 53%. This is a reflection that the AON process is an accumulative process in terms of numbers of children seeking access.

The HSE's Standard Operating Procedure for Assessment of Need (SOP) was implemented for all new applications for AON from 15th January 2020. This SOP included a standardised approach to assessment which was described as a Preliminary Team Assessment. Since then, approximately 10,000 Preliminary Team Assessments have been completed.

Activity for 2021 indicates that there was significant progress in the number of Assessment of Need reports completed during the year, 8,353 by year end. This led to a significant reduction in the total number of applications 'overdue for completion'



The judgement of Ms Justice Phelan in the High Court delivered on 11th March 2022 directed that the Preliminary Team Assessment approach does not fulfil the requirements of the Disability Act. The judgement states that a diagnosis is required to determine the nature and extent of a person's disability.

As a consequence of the judgement, Assessment Officers cannot complete assessments based on the HSE's Preliminary Team Assessment format. This has impacted significantly on the numbers of AONs overdue for completion.

The Table below gives the most recent information regarding applications overdue for completion – at end of Quarter 3, 2022. (Reports are available on a Quarterly rather than a Monthly basis). The Quarterly Reports for 2020, 2021 and up to end of Quarter 2 in 2022 are available in Appendix 1.

Applications overdue for completion - End of Quarter 3, 2022

CHO	LHO	Overdue	<1 month	1 - 3 Months	>3 Months
AREA 1		160	24	21	115
	Cavan/Monaghan	55	20	5	30
	Donegal	85	4	16	65
	Sligo/Leitrim	20	0	0	20
AREA 2		72	15	27	30
	Galway	34	9	12	13
	Mayo	31	6	13	12
	Roscommon	7	0	2	5
AREA 3		176	63	68	45
	Clare	23	9	10	4
	Limerick	101	33	34	34
	Tipperary N.R	52	21	24	7
AREA 4		589	40	71	478
	Kerry	42	1	7	34
	Cork North	88	7	9	72
	Cork North Lee	292	22	42	228
	Cork South Lee	161	8	13	140
	Cork West	6	2	0	4
AREA 5		149	10	24	115
	Carlow/Kilkenny	26	3	6	17
	Tipperary S.R	19	1	4	14
	Waterford	17	2	7	8
	Wexford	87	4	7	76
AREA 6		181	30	48	103
	Dublin South East	14	2	7	5
	Dublin South	45	9	15	21
	Wicklow	122	19	26	77
AREA 7		899	150	298	451
	Dublin South City	66	7	21	38
	Dublin South West	275	51	103	121
	Dublin West	279	52	103	124
	Kildare/West Wicklow	279	40	71	168
AREA 8		305	44	87	174
	Laois/Offaly	106	15	21	70
	Longford/Westmeath	17	3	10	4



	Louth	44	10	20	14
	Meath	138	16	36	86
AREA 9		963	93	188	682
	North Dublin	609	55	92	462
	Dublin North Centre	48	3	9	36
	North West Dublin	306	35	87	184
Total		3494	469	832	2193

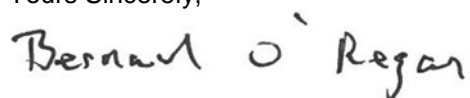
The standardised Preliminary Team Assessment approach, as defined in the SOP, is no longer being utilised to fulfil our obligations under the Disability Act 2005. Pending the completion of clinical guidance for Assessments of Need, clinicians have been advised to use their clinical judgement to determine the level and type of assessment required.

The HSE are continuing to review the files of all children who received a preliminary team assessment and engaging directly with families to establish what additional assessments will be required to meet the requirements of the Act. Additional funding has been secured to support the additional assessments required.

The HSE's National Clinical Programme for People with Disability (NCPD) has led the process of developing Interim Clinical Guidance to replace the Preliminary Team Assessment. This new Interim Clinical Guidance has now been clinically approved and legal advice is awaited to confirm its compliance with the Disability Act (2005). The approach to assessment has to be designed in a manner which is clinically appropriate, prior to legal advice being sought.

The HSE remains committed to the delivery of appropriate services for children with disabilities and will work with families and staff to develop services that meet their needs.

Yours Sincerely,



**Mr Bernard O'Regan,
Head of Operations - Disability Services,
Community Operations**



Appendix 1

End of Quarter 1 2020

CHO	LHO	Overdue	<1 month	1 - 3 Months	>3 Months
AREA 1		149	63	26	60
	Cavan/Monaghan	118	53	17	48
	Donegal	25	6	7	12
	Sligo/Leitrim	6	4	2	0
AREA 2		112	33	42	37
	Galway	71	14	33	24
	Mayo	41	19	9	13
	Roscommon	0	0	0	0
AREA 3		598	82	121	395
	Clare	90	14	28	48
	Limerick	304	49	43	212
	Tipperary N.R	204	19	50	135
AREA 4		879	119	124	636
	Kerry	44	11	15	18
	Cork North	119	12	19	88
	Cork North Lee	324	45	35	244
	Cork South Lee	353	39	48	266
	Cork West	39	12	7	20
AREA 5		468	30	49	389
	Carlow/Kilkenny	77	3	10	64
	Tipperary S.R	79	6	11	62
	Waterford	103	13	13	77
	Wexford	209	8	15	186
AREA 6		217	39	47	131
	Dublin South East	15	1	2	12
	Dublin South	33	1	7	25
	Wicklow	169	37	38	94
AREA 7		751	60	105	586
	Dublin South City	31	9	2	20
	Dublin South West	342	22	62	258
	Dublin West	101	13	18	70
	Kildare/West Wicklow	277	16	23	238
AREA 8		677	76	95	506
	Laois/Offaly	384	16	36	332
	Longford/Westmeath	16	5	4	7
	Louth	89	17	10	62
	Meath	188	38	45	105
AREA 9		1232	75	215	942
	North Dublin	600	45	107	448
	Dublin North Centre	139	5	24	110
	North West Dublin	493	25	84	384
Total		5083	577	824	3682



End of Quarter 2 2020

CHO	LHO	Overdue	<1 month	1 - 3 Months	>3 Months
AREA 1		133	27	42	64
	Cavan/Monaghan	90	20	28	42
	Donegal	33	5	11	17
	Sligo/Leitrim	10	2	3	5
AREA 2		100	26	35	39
	Galway	58	13	18	27
	Mayo	39	11	16	12
	Roscommon	3	2	1	0
AREA 3		589	59	121	409
	Clare	84	14	21	49
	Limerick	311	33	62	216
	Tipperary N.R	194	12	38	144
AREA 4		943	81	170	692
	Kerry	60	4	18	38
	Cork North	141	19	32	90
	Cork North Lee	340	28	58	254
	Cork South Lee	351	22	46	283
	Cork West	51	8	16	27
AREA 5		555	41	81	433
	Carlow/Kilkenny	80	4	12	64
	Tipperary S.R	106	4	27	75
	Waterford	148	25	29	94
	Wexford	221	8	13	200
AREA 6		236	41	65	130
	Dublin South East	15	2	2	11
	Dublin South	41	4	14	23
	Wicklow	180	35	49	96
AREA 7		942	76	164	702
	Dublin South City	58	8	19	31
	Dublin South West	408	17	74	317
	Dublin West	144	17	35	92
	Kildare/West Wicklow	332	34	36	262
AREA 8		721	47	143	531
	Laois/Offaly	384	14	61	309
	Longford/Westmeath	14	6	5	3
	Louth	99	8	16	75
	Meath	224	19	61	144
AREA 9		1314	100	186	1028
	North Dublin	692	56	90	546
	Dublin North Centre	146	8	22	116
	North West Dublin	476	36	74	366
Total		5533	498	1007	4028

End of Quarter 3 2020

CHO	LHO	Overdue	<1 month	1 - 3 Months	>3 Months
AREA 1		138	15	29	94



	Cavan/Monaghan	85	9	14	62
	Donegal	40	0	13	27
	Sligo/Leitrim	13	6	2	5
AREA 2		91	14	19	58
	Galway	48	9	9	30
	Mayo	36	1	8	27
	Roscommon	7	4	2	1
AREA 3		587	39	82	466
	Clare	89	4	17	68
	Limerick	313	22	45	246
	Tipperary N.R	185	13	20	152
AREA 4		1031	84	157	790
	Kerry	68	16	11	41
	Cork North	169	17	30	122
	Cork North Lee	372	15	43	314
	Cork South Lee	358	30	56	272
	Cork West	64	6	17	41
AREA 5		625	11	75	539
	Carlow/Kilkenny	87	0	9	78
	Tipperary S.R	119	3	14	102
	Waterford	184	3	38	143
	Wexford	235	5	14	216
AREA 6		262	13	58	191
	Dublin South East	18	0	4	14
	Dublin South	40	1	10	29
	Wicklow	204	12	44	148
AREA 7		1095	52	168	875
	Dublin South City	91	6	30	55
	Dublin South West	461	24	57	380
	Dublin West	177	10	37	130
	Kildare/West Wicklow	366	12	44	310
AREA 8		714	37	111	566
	Laois/Offaly	345	9	45	291
	Longford/Westmeath	13	2	5	6
	Louth	115	13	19	83
	Meath	241	13	42	186
AREA 9		1515	83	222	1210
	North Dublin	772	36	105	631
	Dublin North Centre	170	7	23	140
	North West Dublin	573	40	94	439
Total		6058	348	921	4789

End of Quarter 4 2020

CHO	LHO	Overdue	<1 month	1 - 3 Months	>3 Months
AREA 1		27	3	4	20
	Cavan/Monaghan	0	0	0	0
	Donegal	27	3	4	20
	Sligo/Leitrim	0	0	0	0
AREA 2		51	7	6	38



	Galway	26	3	3	20
	Mayo	24	4	3	17
	Roscommon	1	0	0	1
AREA 3		434	16	21	397
	Clare	75	4	7	64
	Limerick	221	9	10	202
	Tipperary N.R	138	3	4	131
AREA 4		994	38	91	865
	Kerry	96	4	24	68
	Cork North	164	6	8	150
	Cork North Lee	344	15	28	301
	Cork South Lee	342	12	29	301
	Cork West	48	1	2	45
AREA 5		461	13	14	434
	Carlow/Kilkenny	52	2	0	50
	Tipperary S.R	91	5	7	79
	Waterford	152	2	3	147
	Wexford	166	4	4	158
AREA 6		218	8	11	199
	Dublin South East	10	2	1	7
	Dublin South	40	4	3	33
	Wicklow	168	2	7	159
AREA 7		1023	33	43	947
	Dublin South City	87	1	5	81
	Dublin South West	428	14	19	395
	Dublin West	165	6	9	150
	Kildare/West Wicklow	343	12	10	321
AREA 8		574	34	28	512
	Laois/Offaly	254	5	8	241
	Longford/Westmeath	12	5	1	6
	Louth	74	5	6	63
	Meath	234	19	13	202
AREA 9		1296	58	54	1184
	North Dublin	659	33	31	595
	Dublin North Centre	151	2	7	142
	North West Dublin	486	23	16	447
Total		5078	210	272	4596

End of Quarter 1 2021

CHO	LHO	Overdue	<1 month	1 - 3 Months	>3 Months
AREA 1		5	1	1	3
	Cavan/Monaghan	1	1	0	0
	Donegal	4	0	1	3
	Sligo/Leitrim	0	0	0	0
AREA 2		18	7	5	6
	Galway	7	2	3	2
	Mayo	11	5	2	4
	Roscommon	0	0	0	0
AREA 3		192	4	10	178



	Clare	33	2	5	26
	Limerick	81	0	2	79
	Tipperary N.R	78	2	3	73
AREA 4		903	71	94	738
	Kerry	89	1	4	84
	Cork North	150	10	18	122
	Cork North Lee	314	25	31	258
	Cork South Lee	311	33	39	239
	Cork West	39	2	2	35
AREA 5		251	17	5	229
	Carlow/Kilkenny	16	1	1	14
	Tipperary S.R	60	7	2	51
	Waterford	89	0	0	89
	Wexford	86	9	2	75
AREA 6		91	16	14	61
	Dublin South East	5	4	1	0
	Dublin South	13	1	2	10
	Wicklow	73	11	11	51
AREA 7		735	65	82	588
	Dublin South City	83	10	11	62
	Dublin South West	264	25	31	208
	Dublin West	119	10	9	100
	Kildare/West Wicklow	269	20	31	218
AREA 8		292	36	44	212
	Laois/Offaly	137	4	2	131
	Longford/Westmeath	8	2	3	3
	Louth	20	3	3	14
	Meath	127	27	36	64
AREA 9		1016	65	51	900
	North Dublin	582	38	43	501
	Dublin North Centre	101	6	1	94
	North West Dublin	333	21	7	305
Total		3503	282	306	2915

End of Quarter 2 2021

CHO	LHO	Overdue	<1 month	1 - 3 Months	>3 Months
AREA 1		19	9	9	1
	Cavan/Monaghan	5	2	3	0
	Donegal	13	6	6	1
	Sligo/Leitrim	1	1	0	0
AREA 2		21	14	3	4
	Galway	11	6	3	2
	Mayo	8	6	0	2
	Roscommon	2	2	0	0
AREA 3		127	29	16	82
	Clare	30	4	5	21
	Limerick	61	16	5	40
	Tipperary N.R	36	9	6	21
AREA 4		997	104	181	712



	Kerry	107	13	11	83
	Cork North	153	13	19	121
	Cork North Lee	406	49	81	276
	Cork South Lee	299	28	68	203
	Cork West	32	1	2	29
AREA 5		158	9	16	133
	Carlow/Kilkenny	12	1	3	8
	Tipperary S.R	41	4	4	33
	Waterford	59	0	2	57
	Wexford	46	4	7	35
AREA 6		99	30	33	36
	Dublin South East	17	8	5	4
	Dublin South	11	1	5	5
	Wicklow	71	21	23	27
AREA 7		936	95	197	644
	Dublin South City	96	9	20	67
	Dublin South West	322	25	65	232
	Dublin West	208	31	57	120
	Kildare/West Wicklow	310	30	55	225
AREA 8		186	40	44	102
	Laois/Offaly	62	6	12	44
	Longford/Westmeath	6	2	2	2
	Louth	13	6	5	2
	Meath	105	26	25	54
AREA 9		1066	109	179	778
	North Dublin	642	70	101	471
	Dublin North Centre	96	5	15	76
	North West Dublin	328	34	63	231
Total		3609	439	678	2492

End of Quarter 3 2021

CHO	LHO	Overdue	<1 month	1 - 3 Months	>3 Months
AREA 1		25	11	6	8
	Cavan/Monaghan	6	2	1	3
	Donegal	19	9	5	5
	Sligo/Leitrim	0	0	0	0
AREA 2		10	6	3	1
	Galway	5	2	2	1
	Mayo	5	4	1	0
	Roscommon	0	0	0	0
AREA 3		41	10	5	26
	Clare	14	5	1	8
	Limerick	20	3	4	13
	Tipperary N.R	7	2	0	5
AREA 4		758	93	108	557
	Kerry	114	17	22	75
	Cork North	88	9	6	73
	Cork North Lee	314	35	45	234
	Cork South Lee	222	30	32	160



	Cork West	20	2	3	15
AREA 5		107	25	19	63
	Carlow/Kilkenny	15	1	7	7
	Tipperary S.R	19	4	8	7
	Waterford	33	3	0	30
	Wexford	40	17	4	19
AREA 6		65	28	19	18
	Dublin South East	16	5	8	3
	Dublin South	6	4	2	0
	Wicklow	43	19	9	15
AREA 7		899	124	118	657
	Dublin South City	101	18	9	74
	Dublin South West	298	41	43	214
	Dublin West	220	34	24	162
	Kildare/West Wicklow	280	31	42	207
AREA 8		157	50	39	68
	Laois/Offaly	60	14	22	24
	Longford/Westmeath	5	1	4	0
	Louth	2	0	2	0
	Meath	90	35	11	44
AREA 9		845	113	145	587
	North Dublin	526	65	87	374
	Dublin North Centre	64	7	11	46
	North West Dublin	255	41	47	167
Total		2907	460	462	1985

End of Quarter 4 2021

CHO	LHO	Overdue	<1 month	1 - 3 Months	>3 Months
AREA 1		36	19	7	10
	Cavan/Monaghan	5	5	0	0
	Donegal	27	10	7	10
	Sligo/Leitrim	4	4	0	0
AREA 2		21	14	5	2
	Galway	19	14	4	1
	Mayo	1	0	0	1
	Roscommon	1	0	1	0
AREA 3		37	1	8	28
	Clare	6	1	1	4
	Limerick	27	0	7	20
	Tipperary N.R	4	0	0	4
AREA 4		711	78	133	500
	Kerry	77	9	13	55
	Cork North	94	8	18	68
	Cork North Lee	322	35	54	233
	Cork South Lee	204	24	45	135
	Cork West	14	2	3	9
AREA 5		90	19	22	48
	Carlow/Kilkenny	16	2	2	12
	Tipperary S.R	6	4	1	1



	Waterford	16	1	2	12
	Wexford	52	12	17	23
AREA 6		65	26	21	18
	Dublin South East	6	2	1	3
	Dublin South	7	2	3	2
	Wicklow	52	22	17	13
AREA 7		176	19	23	134
	Dublin South City	20	1	2	17
	Dublin South West	42	7	2	33
	Dublin West	54	7	7	40
	Kildare/West Wicklow	60	4	12	44
AREA 8		203	63	74	66
	Laois/Offaly	70	11	27	32
	Longford/Westmeath	8	4	3	1
	Louth	5	4	1	0
	Meath	120	44	43	33
AREA 9		647	116	180	351
	North Dublin	444	73	140	231
	Dublin North Centre	37	6	3	28
	North West Dublin	166	37	37	92
Total		1986	355	473	1157

End of Quarter 1 2022

CHO	LHO	Overdue	<1 month	1 - 3 Months	>3 Months
AREA 1		62	23	10	29
	Cavan/Monaghan	1	1	0	0
	Donegal	45	15	4	26
	Sligo/Leitrim	16	7	6	3
AREA 2		33	17	11	5
	Galway	19	6	9	4
	Mayo	11	9	2	0
	Roscommon	3	2	0	1
AREA 3		8	0	1	7
	Clare	1	0	1	0
	Limerick	5	0	0	5
	Tipperary N.R	2	0	0	2
AREA 4		566	41	53	472
	Kerry	56	7	3	46
	Cork North	78	4	6	68
	Cork North Lee	259	16	24	219
	Cork South Lee	167	13	18	136
	Cork West	6	1	2	3
AREA 5		86	11	24	51
	Carlow/Kilkenny	10	2	5	3
	Tipperary S.R	6	3	2	1
	Waterford	7	0	1	6
	Wexford	63	6	16	41
AREA 6		56	18	20	18



	Dublin South East	1	1	0	0
	Dublin South	5	2	0	3
	Wicklow	50	15	20	15
AREA 7		213	55	50	108
	Dublin South City	20	2	4	14
	Dublin South West	45	13	11	21
	Dublin West	67	21	20	26
	Kildare/West Wicklow	81	19	15	47
AREA 8		165	26	58	81
	Laois/Offaly	45	3	10	32
	Longford/Westmeath	2	0	1	1
	Louth	8	3	4	1
	Meath	110	20	43	47
AREA 9		529	76	111	342
	North Dublin	358	40	99	219
	Dublin North Centre	33	9	1	23
	North West Dublin	138	27	11	100
Total		1718	267	338	1113

End of Quarter 2 2022

CHO	LHO	Overdue	<1 month	1 - 3 Months	>3 Months
AREA 1		156	31	65	60
	Cavan/Monaghan	51	21	29	1
	Donegal	80	10	28	42
	Sligo/Leitrim	25	0	8	17
AREA 2		48	7	28	13
	Galway	27	4	13	10
	Mayo	16	2	13	1
	Roscommon	5	1	2	2
AREA 3		87	45	35	7
	Clare	17	8	9	0
	Limerick	37	20	12	5
	Tipperary N.R	33	17	14	2
AREA 4		587	38	73	476
	Kerry	51	2	14	35
	Cork North	83	4	9	70
	Cork North Lee	282	18	33	231
	Cork South Lee	164	13	15	136
	Cork West	7	1	2	4
AREA 5		123	15	22	86
	Carlow/Kilkenny	18	4	3	11
	Tipperary S.R	14	3	5	6
	Waterford	11	2	2	7
	Wexford	80	6	12	62
AREA 6		115	13	49	53
	Dublin South East	6	1	4	1
	Dublin South	22	3	15	4
	Wicklow	87	9	30	48



AREA 7		452	108	157	187
	Dublin South City	37	5	13	19
	Dublin South West	122	41	43	38
	Dublin West	124	26	43	55
	Kildare/West Wicklow	169	36	58	75
AREA 8		236	42	74	120
	Laois/Offaly	80	11	26	43
	Longford/Westmeath	13	7	5	1
	Louth	22	10	8	4
	Meath	121	14	35	72
AREA 9		727	66	214	447
	North Dublin	489	31	136	322
	Dublin North Centre	38	4	10	24
	North West Dublin	200	31	68	101
Total		2531	365	717	1449

